BUSINESS

Site j. Web search powered by AHOO!

GO

Browse Archives Shop Images

JOBS HOMES AUTOS FOR SALE

- Search over 250 listings
- Buy or sell a full range of products & services
- Business Service Directory

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LIFESTYLE

Aurora residents talk about future

ENTERTAL NMENT

By Justin Kmitch | Daily Herald Staff

Contact writer

Published: 6/29/2010 11:59 PM | Updated: 6/30/2010 2:24 PM

COMMENTS (4) | read | post

Buzz up!

Several Aurorans took a real handson approach to revitalizing their near east side neighborhood Tuesday night.

SPORTS

Armed with labeled building blocks and aerial maps of two near east side intersections, a few dozen residents (less than a quarter of them actually residents of the neighborhood), modeled several redevelopment schemes with an emphasis on lowering density and increasing land values.

Mixed use commercial with upstairs residential and rear green space lining the northeast corner of Jackson Street and North Avenue? Could happen.

A solid core of three-story commercial buildings wrapping the southeast corner of New York and Root streets? Also a possibility.

The residents were participating in the second in a series of three meetings, held at the Fred Rodgers Community Center, 501 College Avenue, at which they worked with representatives from the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to design the continued revitalization of their neighborhood.

The neighborhood, roughly bounded by Lake Street, Liberty Street, North Avenue, and East Avenue, has been designated a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development since 1999.

"The city has chosen to concentrate on this area to put its block grant dollars to work and they're looking for feedback," said Joanna Trotter, project manager with the Metropolitan Planning Council. "It may not be tomorrow or next year but these folks working here tonight are charting a course for the future of this neighborhood."

The NSRA is a program created by HUD to revitalize distressed community areas and is funded through Community Development Block Grant funds. CDBG provides communities with resources to address a wide range of needs including affordable housing, services to people in need and job creation and retention.

How they come about that however, is no easy answer.

Every block building participant had a different theory on how to revive the near east side

"We need to lower the density here and focus on retail," said community leader Sharon Jacobs while working with her team to redesign the northeast corner of Jackson Street and North Avenue. "The last thing the schools and this area needs is more density."

Resident Mary Kreski, however, reminded her group that retail and commercial wont come without high density.

Working on the intersection at New York and Root streets with another group, resident and Curator of the Aurora Regional Fire Museum David Lewis piled on the multistory commercial to focus on bringing in tax dollars.

"Parks and green space are essential in every neighborhood, but they don't pay the bills," he said. "We should be looking to get the most bang for our development buck."

The third meeting on July 22 will include an analysis of the attendees' views along with the ideas of the developers that will be integrated into a final plan that will be submitted to HUD for approval in August.

TODAY'S TOP JOBS

MARKETPLACE

CARPET CLEANING. Exper. tech needed for F/T ,evenings,comme... MORE

Models- Male & female models needed for established adult na... MORE

Landscape - High end Design Build Landscape Construction & M... MORE

Artist-Part-Time artist needs Meltem Tunar Stained Glass 84... MORE

CLEANING OFFICES P/T Eves. Mon-Fri. Aurora. \$8.50/hr 847-51... MORE

View All Top Jobs | Post A Job





ACADEMIC TEAMS
Daily Herald honors top
students



LEE DEWYZE
Mount Prospect's
'American Idol'

PENSION CRISIS



Illinois teacher pension system in debate



ALL-AREA TEAMS Herald experts pick top basketball players



How state budget woes affect local schools

FUNDING CRUNCH



2010 PRIMARY Complete Daily Herald coverage of the election



LEADERSHIP TEAMS
Daily Herald honors
outstanding teens



INVISIBLE HOMELESS
A suburban family finds
hope



HEROIN'S HEARTACHE The hidden scourge in the suburbs



ALL-AREA TEAMS
Herald experts pick top
football players



PEOPLE V. DUGAN The Jeanine Nicarico murder



'09 REPORT CARDS
Did your school district
make the grade?



PEOPLE V. DEGORSKI The Brown's Chicken murders



RED LIGHT CAMERAS A Daily Herald investigation



PAY TO PLAY? Complete coverage of Blagojevich case



NEWS

OPINION



Suburban Parent





May is Mental Health Month

MM GRJ and PRTI

| Note 1 may 1



Readers' Choice 2010

FITTEST LOSER CHALLENGE

Can five people fit in 12 weeks?



Fittest Loser Challenge



Progressive Latinos ... Reflecting Excellence



Obama Urges Homeowners to <u>Refinance</u>

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program SeeRefinanceRates

Chicago Blackhawks Refinance Now at Employment (Hiring)

Employment Available for Chicago Blackhawks Hiring Now - Apply hiring

4.0% Fixed

Click here to read 4 comments or post a comment

\$160,000 Mortgage for \$633/mo. Free. No obligation. Get 4 quotes. MortgageRefinance

Ads by Yahoo!

CALENDAR Search and find Chicagoland events All categories From: 6/30/2010 6 to: 6/30/2010 6 **Advanced Events Search** Search STORIES

» Mark's the place to spend summer night

» CNN seeks Larry King's replacement

» Sultry summer just right for 'Twelfth Night'

» Is 'The Office' out of business?

» An eclectic look at patriotic movies

Daily Herald

News

Connect with us

Cook County DuPage County
Kane County
Lake County
McHenry County Illinois Nation & World Obituaries Opinion Politics Special Reports

Business

Stocks/market info Property Transfers Foreclosures

Bears Blackhawks Bulls Cubs Fire Sky White Sox

Sports

Prep College

Photo reprints

Entertainment

Movies Movie times Puzzles TV listings

Lifestyle

Weddings Engagements Anniversaries Births Birthdays Graduations Occasions Achievements Food Health & Fitness Home & Garden Travel

Real Estate

Search for homes Real estate articles

Marketplace

SEARCH

Place an ad Autos Homes Jobs Announcements Legals Notices Service directory Merchandise Garage sales Photo reprints

Customer Services | Jobs at Daily Herald | Advertise | Feedback

Copyright © 2010 Paddock Publications, Inc. | Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | About our Ads

Visit other Daily Herald sites: Select Site 6

